

Message Text

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22

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 DHA-02 L-03 /015 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2144

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJECT: SCS HANDBOOK: VISITS TO AMERICAN PRISONERS

REF: A-4007, 11 AUG 76

1. DEPTS POLICY OF SCHEDULING MONTHLY VISITS BY CONSULAR OFFICERS TO ALL PRISONERS IN THE DISTRICT IS NOT CONSIDERED NECESSARY IN VIEW OF THE GENERALLY FAVORABLE TREATMENT ACCORDED AMERICANS IN JAPAN. AMERICANS RECEIVE BASIALLY BETTER TREATMENT THAN THAT GIVEN EVEN JAPANESE PRISONERS AND IS FAR BETTER THAN MOST PRISONS AND JAILS IN U.S. WHICH CONGEN VISITED DURING HIS TEN YEARS IN PRIVATE LAW PRACTICE. IN ADDITION, PRISON OFFICIALS WOULD NOT WELCOME MONTHLY VISITS BECAUSE EACH VISIT INEVITABLY DISRUPTS REGULAR PRISON WORK SCHEDULES. AMERICANS (AT PRESENT TIME ARE ASSIGNED TO DIFFERENT WORK TEAMS WITH VARIOUS GROUPS MAKING FURNITURE, ASSEMBLING ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS, MAKING TOYS, ETC.

2. EXPERIENCED CONSULAR OFFICERS HERE BELIEVE THAT MONTHLY VISITS WOULD ACTUALLY PROVE TO BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE INsofar

AS THE PRISONERS THEMSELVES ARE CONCERNED. THE GENERAL ATTITUDE OF MOST PRISONERS IS QUOTE WHY ARE YOUR HERE AGAIN SO SOON QUESTION YOU CAN'T GET ME OUT SO WHY KEEP VISITING ME QUESTION I HAVE ALREADY TOLD YOU EVERYTHING I HAVE TO SAY. UNQUOTE. INCREASED VISITS ALSO GENERATE MORE AND MORE REQUESTS FOR SERVICES AND COMFORTS WHICH CANNOT BE PROVIDED AND ENCOURAGE GRIPES AND COMPLAINTS WHICH CONSULAR UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFICERS AND EVEN PRISON OFFICIALS ARE POWERLESS TO

DO ANYTHING ABOUT, THUS
LEADING TO FRICTION AND FRUSTRATION FOR ALL CONCERNED.

3. EMB PLANS CONTINUE PRACTICE OF SCHEDULING VISITS
EVERY EIGHT TO TEN WEEKS UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED.
SHOESMITH

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NNN

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